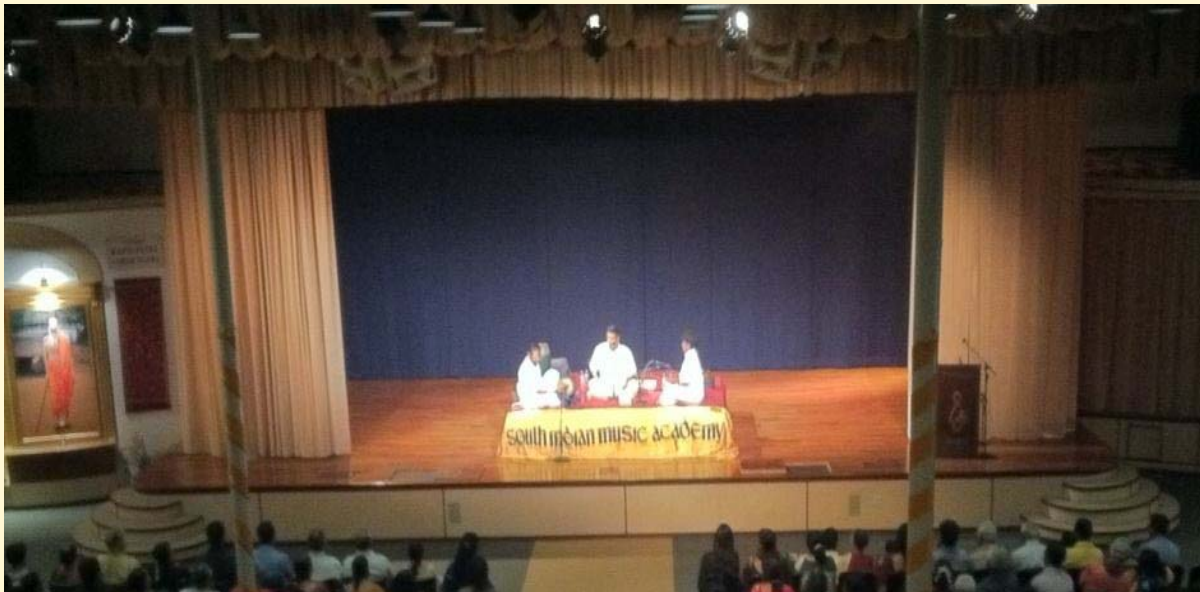


Renovated Performance Stage Inaugurated... ... Donors Saroj and Raj Patel Thanked



Through the summer of 2013, the main hall in Chinmaya Rameshwaram was a beehive of activity with the sounds of drills and hammers resounding through the center. In September, the sparkling new stage which has drawn praise from all was officially inaugurated.



Saroj and Raj Patel, whose donation made it all possible, opened the curtains with the touch of a button in front of a packed hall. Long time members of CM, the couple has been active in attending Swami Ishwarananda's lectures and supporting various activities, with Saroj also being a member of the Foundation Committee. Asked to speak, Raj expressed his respect for Swamiji and stated that this was their way of giving back to CM.

Foundation Committee Chair, Shashi Acharya on behalf of CM spoke of his gratitude to them for their philanthropy. Thanks was also expressed in the form of a plaque installed in recognition of the generosity of the Patels. They participated in the Ganesha puja and led the Ganesh arati. Dr.Srinivasa Iyer, whose tireless and energetic efforts brought the purpose of the donation to fruition, spoke in Rameshwaram's second session balavihar. He too articulated his gratefulness to Swamiji and acknowledged Saroj and Raj Patel.

Bala Vihar Session 2013-14 Begins

Children's voices rang through Chinmaya Rameshwaram and centers across the Southland as they gathered together again in September, to begin their instruction in slokas, stories from Hindu mythology and Vedanta. Dressed in Indian clothes and eager to begin the 2013-2014 BV year, they greeted friends after the summer break and met with their new teachers.



The opening day for the students began with a collective Ganesh puja. The Gurudev arati that followed was done by teachers and coordinators. After this the acharyas had an orientation with the parents where they spoke of the ideals of Chinmaya Mission.

At Rameshwaram, the BV program is going from strength to strength, with full classrooms and enthusiastic parent participation.



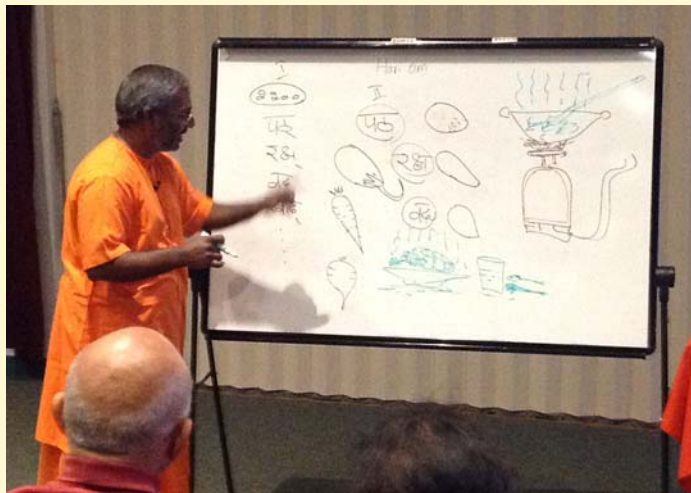
Visiting Acharyas From India Grace Rameshwaram

Chinmaya Rameshwaram was fortunate to hold two back- to-back yagnas by two acharyas visiting from India - Swamini Gangananda and Swami Ramakrishnanda. CMLA members gathered during their week long classes to listen and learn.

Swamini Gangananda, the senior most disciple of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda, graduated from the first batch of Vedanta students from Sandeepany, was ushered on Sunday, Sept.15 by Swami Ishwarananda and Acharya Mahadevji to Rameshwaram and introduced to the large balavihar congregation.

The same evening before the start of her yagna on 'Vakya Vritti' Mahadevji and Viji Mahadev performed the *poorna kumbam* and welcomed Swamini Gangananda. She taught the difficult composition by Adi Shankara effortlessly, quoting from the Gita and expounding on the mahavakya 'Tat Tvam Asi.'

Ganganandaji also held Devi Group talks during the morning hours on the Ishavasya Upanishad. Here, she explained the different paths of renunciation, rituals and puja all finally lead to the sadhak's vasana purgation thereby leading to liberation.



The next week, from Sept.23-29 saw Swami Ramakrishnanda from Chinmaya Mission Nagapittanam give the free 'Sulabha Samskritam' course to CMLA and to all interested members of the community. His classes were fun, interactive and lively.

Swamiji held the students in thrall with his unique style of teaching - using simple teaching aids like illustrations, laminated cards, etc. Some of Swamiji's students created a rap on verb

conjugation and pronouns – which several found immensely useful to memorize. He taught the basic framework of Samskritam grammar in an easy way with the object of removing the fear of grammar from the minds of the students.

Ramakrishnandaji interspersed his teaching with lively discussions on Vedanta about sankhya yoga, relationships, jokes and quips which kept everyone in splits. He addressed the balavihar parents on Sunday, speaking on 'Parenting Tips for Today's Children' showing how to raise well-adjusted children who are able to handle the pressures and challenges of today's world.

Swamiji talked about the Chinmaya International Foundation, which was the last project undertaken by Pujya Gurudev. Acquiring the land and home in which Adi Shankara was born and raised, CM has created this global center for Indic studies and research which keeps old manuscripts, language, and religious studies alive in today's modern world.



Swamini In the Valley

Swamini Gangananda also spoke at three different area in the Valley area. On Sept.21, she elaborated to the audiences on 'Values In the Bhagwad Geeta' at the Chatsworth temple.

The next day, following a talk on the 'Essence of the Bhagwad Geeta' at the Shri Radha Bihari temple in Simi Valley, she gave two more discourses on Geeta at the Valley Hindu Temple in Northridge.



Support Sevanjali on November 9

The annual Sevanjali event is being held this year on Nov.9 in Santa Ana featuring music and dance performed to the theme of 'Devi Bhakti-Desha Bhakti.' Each reader's attendance at just \$25 will go a long way toward enhancing and continuing the services offered by CMLA.

Your support over the past many years has allowed CMLA to provide greater instructional services to children and adults across Southern California and encouraged us to initiate new projects and ideas. Today, every age group has a connection to CMLA - from the Chinmaya Early Education Program for children between ages 2 and 4, Yuva Kendra for college going youth, Vedanta lectures for adults, to the free monthly programs for seniors.

Apart from this are activities open to all – pujas, yoga, meditation, adult and children's music groups, hiking, badminton, and many more.

Your participation will keep CMLA innovative and work towards meeting the needs of the growing membership.

Yagna On Your Phone

For the first time a Mobile Yajna of Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda on all the eighteen chapters of Geeta is available on Chinmaya Sanchar, the official mobile app of Chinmaya Mission for Iphone, Android and Blackberry smart phone users. The Mobile Yajna was inaugurated by Guruji Swami Tejomayananda on Vijayadasahmi, in Chinmaya Vibhooti, Kolwan.

The whole yajna is in form of non-stop daily dose of 30 minutes consisting of two talks of approximately 15 minutes each on the Geeta in audio format given by Pujya Gurudev at various locations across the world. The talks will be available for a period of 7 days after which they will be replaced by new talks.

For Android Users: On Google playstore: <https://play.google.com/store/search?q=chinmaya+sanchar&c=apps>

For iPhone & iPad Users: On Apple Itunes store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chinmaya-sanchar/id586951355?ls=1&mt=8>

For Blackberry Users: On Blackberry Appworld store: <http://appworld.blackberry.com/webstore/content/20197555/?countrycode=IN&lang=en>

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